

THE CLAIMS DEFINING THE INVENTION ARE AS FOLLOWS:

1. A mid-wheel drive wheelchair comprising:

a central base frame,

a seat or chair frame attachable to said base frame,

a pair of leading pivot arms pivotally supported on opposite sides of said base frame for independent pivotal movement relative to the base frame about a common transverse pivot axis, each said pivot arm extending forwardly of the front end of the base frame,

a mid-drive wheel mounted for rotation on each of said pivot arms adjacent its trailing end, with the axle of each drive wheel being located a short distance rearwardly of the common transverse pivot axis of said pivot arms,

a pair of ground engaging front castor wheels respectively mounted at the leading ends of said pivot arms,

spring means respectively acting between each said pivot arm and an adjacent side portion of the base frame, said spring means, in use, being arranged to resist pivotal movement of its associated said pivot arm and to allow the base frame to tilt under spring pressure with respect the pivot arms, and

a pair of transversely spaced apart ground engaging rear castor wheels movable supported with respect to said base frame.

2. A mid-wheel drive wheelchair according to claim 1 wherein said rear castor wheels are respectively rotatable mounted at opposite ends of a rigid transverse support arm which extends across the width of the wheelchair and is pivotally connected to the rear end of the base frame, centrally thereof, for rotation about a central longitudinal axis.

3. A mid-wheel drive wheelchair according to either claim 1 or claim 2 wherein each said spring means comprises a pair of coil compression springs respectively located fore and aft of the pivot axis of the associated pivot arm.

4. A mid-wheel drive wheelchair according to ~~any one of~~ claim 1 wherein the distance between said common transverse pivot axis and the axis of each drive wheel axle is small relative to the length of the pivot arm, so as to provide a mechanical advantage for each of the pivot arms when its front castor wheel is vertically displaced.

5. A mid-wheel drive wheelchair according to claim 1 wherein the seat or chair frame is attached to said base frame in a manner so that substantially the whole weight of the wheelchair rider is distributed over the mid-drive wheels, so as to provide improved traction for said drive wheels.

6. A mid-wheel drive wheelchair according to claim 1 wherein the seat or chair frame has a pair of base rails extending longitudinally of said base frame, each said base rail being releasably attached, at its rear end to said base frame by releasable spring loaded locking means.

7. A mid-wheel drive wheelchair according to claim 6 wherein said central base frame includes a transverse cross bar at its forward end, and wherein said seat or chair frame includes a transverse hook defining rail extending between said base rails at or adjacent their forward ends and which is arranged to hookingly engage with said cross bar for securing the forward end of the seat or chair frame to the base frame.

8. A mid-wheel drive wheelchair according to claim 1 wherein each of the mid-drive wheels is coupled to an electric drive motor, each said motor being mounted by means of a motor mounting plate fixed to and depending from its associated said pivot arm adjacent its trailing end thereof.